

**Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic District Court Plan to Return to Normal Operations  
(Revised 5/16/2021)**

The Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (the “**Court**”) continues to monitor the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19); actions taken by federal, state, and local authorities; the number of vaccinations administered; and other recent developments; to ensure that its policies and procedures reflect the best information currently available about the pandemic. Accordingly, and after considering the liberty and constitutional interests at stake; the health and safety of parties, attorneys, court personnel, and others necessarily involved in the operations of the Court; and the ability of the Court to safely operate; the Court enacts the following plan to return to normal operations **no later than January 1, 2022**. This plan is effective immediately and may be amended or rescinded by further court action.

Criminal Cases

***All criminal status hearings scheduled to be held on or after August 1, 2021 are converted to trials or preliminary hearings, as applicable.*** The date and time of the hearing will not change but each criminal status hearing scheduled for on or after August 1, 2021 is now either a trial (for juvenile cases and adult misdemeanor cases) or preliminary hearing (for adult felony cases). These hearings will be in-person hearings, not virtual hearings.

Each party is responsible for subpoenaing its witnesses for the trial or preliminary hearing. Notwithstanding any previously filed request for witness subpoenas, all parties must file a new request for witness subpoenas for the Clerk’s Office to issue a witness subpoena for the hearing to a requested individual; such requests should be filed as soon as possible, but ***no less than fourteen days before the trial or preliminary hearing***, to allow sufficient time for processing and service. Continuance requests on the day of trial or preliminary hearing are disfavored.

Protective Orders

***All protective order hearings scheduled to be held on or after August 1, 2021 will be held in person***, not virtually. Starting on August 1, 2021, petitioners seeking a preliminary protective order will have the option of supporting their petition by affidavit or sworn testimony at an in-person hearing.

Child Dependency Matters

***All child dependency hearings scheduled to be held on or after November 1, 2021 will be held in person***, not virtually.

Return to Pre-Pandemic Dockets

No later than January 1, 2022, the Court will resume its pre-pandemic dockets, with appropriate improvements adopted due to lessons learned during the pandemic. Once the Court resumes its pre-pandemic dockets, all hearings will be held in person, not virtually, absent Court order to the contrary.